

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O P 211745Z APR 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3077

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: HARTMAN VISIT TO ATHENS

REF: STATE 088677

ANKARA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM KUBISCH

1. FONMIN BITSIOS RETURNED FROM PARIS LAST NIGHT AND HE AND I HAD A DISCUSSION EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON ABOUT YOUR VISIT TO ATHENS LATER THIS WEEK. I TOLD HIM OF YOUR TRAVEL PLANS IN ACCORDANCE REFTEL AND HE SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU HERE ON THURSDAY. BITSIOS PROPOSED--AND I ACCEPTED IN YOUR BEHALF SUBJECT TO YOUR CONCURRENCE--THAT YOU AND I AND EAGLETON CALL ON BITSIOS IN HIS OFFICE AT NOON THURSDAY APRIL 24. TZOUNIS AND PERHAPS ONE OTHER FONOFF OFFICIAL WILL ALSO BE PRESENT. FOLLOWING THIS OFFICE MEETING, BITSIOS INVITES THE THREE OF US TO BE HIS GUESTS FOR LUNCHEON. I OFFERED TO HOST A WORKING LUNCHEON AT THE RESIDENCE BUT BITSIOS SAID HE PREFERRED TO BE THE HOST THIS TIME. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, BITSIOS SAID THAT IF YOU WANTED A FOURTH PERSON TO ACCOMPANY YOU ON THE AMERICAN SIDE (I WAS THINKING OF STEARNS OR LEDSKY) THAT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT WITH HIM. THE DECISION WOULD BE UP TO YOU AND THE FOURTH PERSON WOULD BE WELCOME BOTH AT THE OFFICE METING AND THE LUNCHEON, IF YOU SO DESIRED.

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2. ALTHOUGH BITSIOS IS AWARE OF YOUR INTENTION TO REMAIN IN ATHENS UNTIL EARLY AFTERNOON APRIL 25, HE PREFERRED TO LEAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF A FURTHER GET TOGETHER FOR LATER DECISION, FOLLOWING YOUR MIDDAY MEETING AND LUNCHEON ON THURSDAY. BITSIOS ASKED ME IF YOU WOULD BE BRINGING ANSWERS OR FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTS FOR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND, IF SO, IF WE SHOULD ARRANGE FOR YOU TO SEE DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF AND ECONOMIC COORDINATION MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS WHILE YOU ARE HERE. I TOLD BITSIOS THAT I UNDERSTOOD THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS CYPRUS AND OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING U.S. AND GREED-TURKISH RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH I WAS SURE THAT YOU WOULD BE UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST THINKING AND CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN WASHINGTON WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBJECTS OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE. I SAID I WOULD CONTACT YOU TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT YOU WISHED APPOINTMENTS WITH AVEROFF AND PAPALIGOURAS BUT INDICATED THAT I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE ANY INFORMATION YOU HAD ON THESE SUBJECT DIRECTLY TO BITSIOS DURING YOUR TIME WITH HIM WHICH HE, AS FOREIGN MINISTER, COULD THEN RELAY TO PAPALIGOURAS AND AVEROFF. (COMMENT: UNLESS YOU ARE INFORMED IN FAIRLY COMPLETE DETAIL ON BOTH OF THESE SUBJECTS AND ALSO HAVE A NEED TO DISCUSS SOME CONCRETE BUSINESS PERSONALLY AND DIRECTLY WITH AVEROFF AND PAPALIGOURAS, I THINK IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW TO HANDLE THESE SUBJECTS MORE GENERALLY THROUGH BITSIOS AND LET THE EMBASSY CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH AVEROFF, PAPALIGOURAS AND THE EXPERTS IN THEIR TWO MINISTRIES.)

3. WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS, BITSIOS REPEATED THE VIEWS HE EXPRESSED TO ME ON APRIL 16TH (ATHENS 2959), SAYING VERY LITTLE THAT WAS NEW. HE ASKED ME SPECIFICALLY IF I HAD PASSED TO YOU HIS THOUGHTS ABOUT THE TWO POSSIBLE UNFAVORABLE OUTCOMES--FROM THE GREEK POINT OF VIEW--TO YOUR VISIT TO ANKARA THIS WEEK, AND HOW HE FELT THAT THE IDEAL OUTCOME WOULD BE FOR YOU TO OBTAIN SOME CONCRETE REPLY FROM THE TURKS ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR A POSSIBLE CYPRUS SETTLEMENT THAT THE SECRETARY HAD DISCUSSED WHEN HE WAS IN ANKARA IN EARLY MARCH. I TOLD BITSIOS THAT I HAD CONVEYED HIS THOUGHTS TO YOU AND THAT I WAS SURE YOU WOULD BE DOING EVERYTHING YOU COULD TO OBTAIN A CURRENT READING OF THE POSITION OF THE GOT AND

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TRY AND MOVE THINGS ALONG TOWARD A SETTLEMENT.

4. BITSIOS ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU HIS VIEW THAT THE TALKS BEGINNING IN VIENNA NEXT MONDAY WOULD BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, IF FOR NOTHING ELSE THAN FOR SYMBOLIC REASONS. HE SAID IT WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT THE TALKS BE KEPT GOING, THAT WE HAD ALL MADE A MAJOR EFFORT TO GET CLERIDES AND DENKTASH BACK TOGETHER AGAIN, AND THE CLERIDES-DENKTASH FORUM HAD TO BE

MAINTAINED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE NEGOTIATING FORUM FOR THE SETTLEMENT AS WELL AS FOR "APPEARANCES" SAKE. BITSISO WAS WORRIED THAT DENKTASH OR THE TURKS MIGHT DO SOMETHING IN VIENNA NEXT WEEK THAT WOULD NECESSITATE THE GREEKS ABRUPTLY TERMINATING THOSE TALKS ONCE AGAIN AND THUS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE TOWARD A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT AND RELAZATION OF GREEK-TURKISH TENSIONS OVER THE NEXT 60 DAYS, WOULD BE LOST.

5. WE WILL MEET YOU ON YOUR ARRIVAL ON WEDNESDAY EVENING AND IF AGREEABLE TO YOU WILL HAVE AN IN-HOUSE WORKING DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE THAT EVENING. WE ARE EXPECTING YOU AND EAGLETON TO STAY AT THE RESIDENCE WITH US, AND AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD WILL COME TO ATHENS AND JOIN YOU THERE THURSDAY EVENING.

6. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER APPOINTMENTS THAT YOU WISH IN ATHENS OR ANY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT SHOULD BE MADE PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL.
KUBISCH

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